

AGN. NO.

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

May 17, 2011

Support for Disclosure of Chemicals Used During Oil and Gas Extraction

California is the fourth largest oil and gas producing State in the United States. Therefore, it comes as no surprise that the oil and gas industry continues to look for new technologies and drilling practices that will assist in accessing the rich oil and gas deposits throughout the State.

Over the past few years, a technique known as hydraulic fracking has been increasingly utilized as a method for extracting oil and natural gas. This process involves injecting a mixture of water, sand and chemicals at high pressure into underground wells to crack rock formations that would otherwise trap the fossil fuels.

Gas sands in Northern California and oil shale deposits in Central and Southern California are generating heightened interest within the oil and gas industry which would like to utilize the hydraulic fracking technique to extract these increasingly valuable resources.

- MORE-

MOTION

MOLINA _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

YAROSLAVSKY _____

KNABE _____

ANTONOVICH _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

May 17, 2011

PAGE 2

This technique has become controversial locally. For example, while the oil operator at the Inglewood Oil Field has not extracted oil through hydraulic fracking, many of the surrounding residents have expressed concern about the potential environmental impacts of this technique. The type and quantity of chemicals that are injected during hydraulic fracking are often considered trade secrets, and no national or state regulatory agency currently requires disclosure of the type of chemicals, or quantities that is being used. This information should be disclosed so that the environmental impacts of this technique can be properly considered and addressed.

Assembly Bill 591 (Bob Wieckowski – 20th District) would require oil and gas companies to disclose the chemicals injected into wells. This information would be posted on the State of California's Natural Resources Agency's Division of Oil, Geothermal and Gas Resource's (DOGGR) website. This type of disclosure is appropriate in order for DOGGR to properly assess the potential environmental impacts associated with the chemicals used in hydraulic fracking, especially as it may relate to the complex geology and extensive active faults in California, prior to its issuance of drilling permits.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Direct the Chief Executive Officer to work with the County's Legislative Advocates in Sacramento to support Assembly Bill 591 which would require disclosure of the types of chemicals injected underground during oil and gas extraction.

#